

PLANTAE NOVAE AFRICANAE.

“Ex Africa semper aliquid novi.”—*Pliny*.

SERIES X.

By Captain T. M. SALTER, R.N. (Ret.).

Oxalis exserta, Salter (Oxalidaceae), § Lineares.

Planta parva erecta, dense pubescens, 4—10 cm. alta. *Bulbus* anguste ovoideus, saepe 2 cm. longus, tunicis satis tenuibus brunneis: bulbilli stolonum subterraneorum apicibus terminaliter producti. *Rhizoma* 4—7 cm. longum, squamis numerosis indutum, stolonibus lateralibus nonnullis squamelliferis, ad 20 cm. longis, e squamorum axillis exorientibus. *Caulis* 1—7 cm. longus, squamis paucis amplexicaulibus pubescentibus et interdum foliis caulinis 1—2 instructus. *Folia* satis numerosa, ad caulis apicem aggregata: petioli graciles, 0·5—1·5 cm. longi: foliola 3, linearia vel oblonga, emarginata, subconduplicativa, 0·6—1 cm. longa, saepe glauca, utrinque pubescens, ciliata, ecallosa. *Pedunculi* pauci, folia aequantes vel paulum longiores, bibracteati bracteis subulatis calycem imbricantibus. *Sepala* late lanceolata, subacuta, 4·5—5 mm. longa, ecallosa. *Corolla* rosea, tubo subcylindrico pubescente, obscure luteo: petala 1·7—2·2 cm. longa, e basi anguste unguiculata; superne obovata vel anguste obovata. *Filamenta* (parte connata inclusa) minora 5—8 mm. longa, majora 8—13 mm. longa, sparse glandulosa, longissima inaequalia, valde exserta. *Ovarium* dense pubescens, loculis 2-ovulatis: styli glandulosi, sicut stamina, longissimi e corollae tubo exserti. (v.v.s., v.v.c.)

Hab. Namaqualand. Two miles north of Louwpoort. *Salter* 4589 (*type* in Bolus Herbarium); 12 miles north of Concordia, *Salter* 5536; near Kamieskroon, *L. Bolus*, B.H. 19198, *Salter* 855, 867, 1547; between Kamieskroon and Springbok, *Salter* 1405, 1406B, 1469; Springbok, *Salter* 901A, 906; Steinkopf, *Salter* 5544.

An affinity of *O. linearis*, Jacq. and also of *O. xerophila*, Salter. It differs from both in its habit of usually spreading by means of bulbilli produced at the tips of long lateral subterranean stolons, 20 cm. or even more in length and in the glaucous leaflets which are pubescent on the upper surface as well as the lower. The pubescence is much softer than that of *O. linearis* and the leaflets do not taper towards the apex as in *O. xerophila*.

It flowers from April to June, but rather sparingly. Several large colonies have been seen without any trace of flowers and bulbs from these, brought into cultivation, have, after several years, only produced a few flowers. It cannot be definitely stated that this species always produces

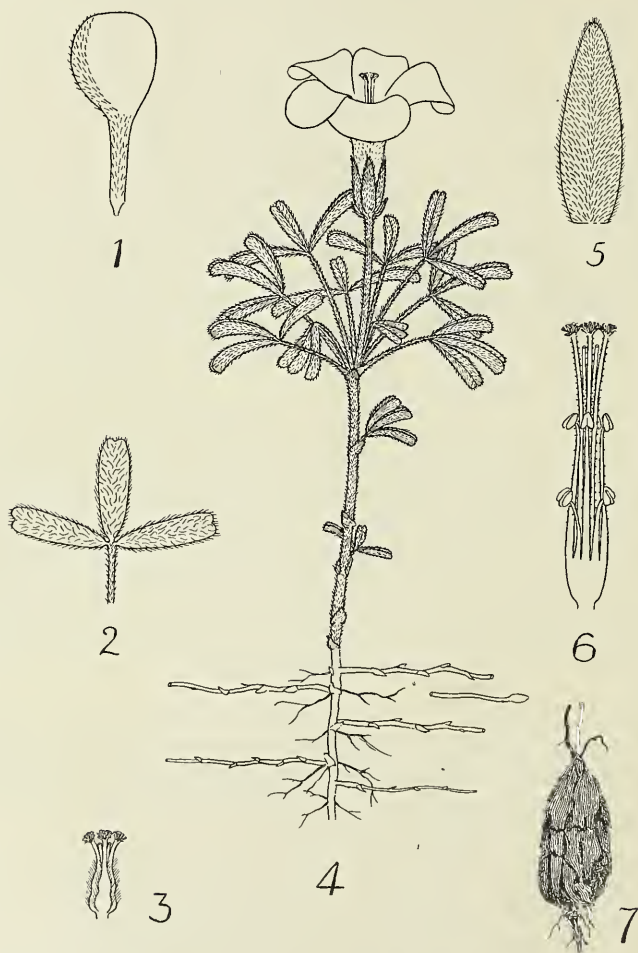


FIG. 1. *Oxalis exserta*, Salter. 1. Petal $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 2. Leaf, upper surface $\times 2$. 3. Gynoecium $\times 3$. 4. Plant $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 5. Sepal $\times 6$. 6. Androecium $\times 3$. 7. Bulb, natural size. (Salter 4589). Del. T. M. Salter.

underground stolons and it is possible that it does so only in its younger stages. No structural differences can, however, be found in the few plants where this character appeared to be absent. One bulb produced a double flower in cultivation.

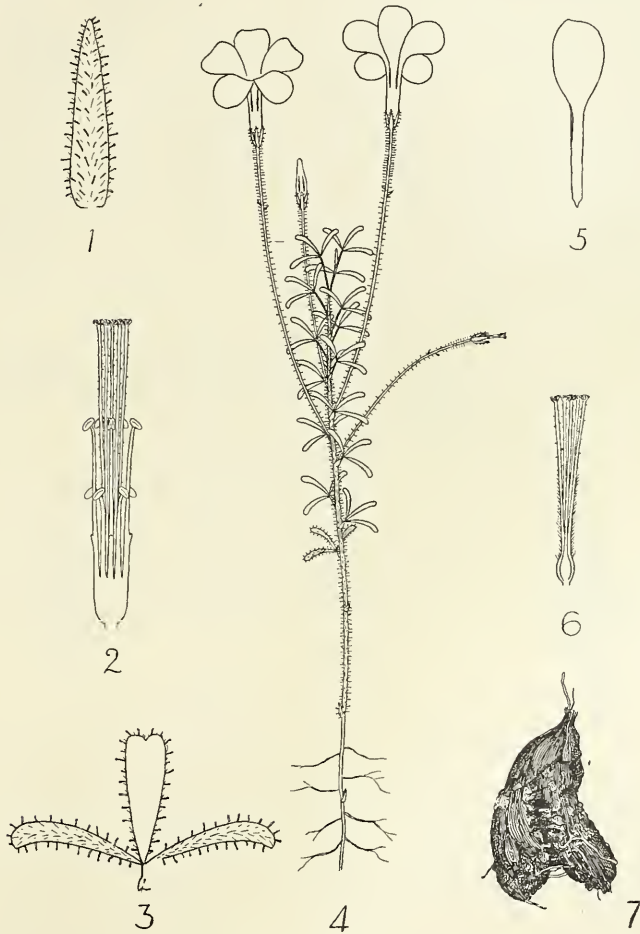


FIG. 2. *Oxalis giftbergensis*, Salter. 1. Sepal $\times 8$. 2. Androecium $\times 4$. 3. Leaf $\times 4$. 4. Plant, natural size. 5. Petal $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 6. Gynaecium $\times 4$. 7. Bulb natural size. (Salter 7263). Del. T. M. Salter.

Oxalis giftbergensis, Salter (Oxalidaceae), § Sessilifoliae.

Planta erecta gracilis, 6—20 cm. alta, pilis simplicibus brevibus capitatisque longioribus, saepe pluricellularibus omnino dense pilosa. *Bulbi* plus minusve ovoidei vel oblongi, 2—3 cm. longi, interdum tortuose conglomerati, tunicis rigidis gummeis atris. *Rhizoma* glabrum, pallidum, fere 5—10 cm. longum, squamis paucis amplexicaulis indutum. *Caulis* in dimidio superiore foliatus. *Folia* caulina, inferiora sessilia, petiolis squamiformibus, superiora breviter petiolata, petiolis filiformibus, ad 1·2 cm. longis: foliola 3, sessilia, lineari-cuneata, conduplicativo-falcata, emarginata, 4—9 mm. longa, supra glabra, infra pubescentia, margine nervoque medio inferiore glanduloso-pilosa, ecallosa. Pedunculi axillares, 2—6 cm. longi, dimidio superiore bibracteati bracteis inconspicuis minutis alternantibus. *Sepala* lanceolata, interdum paulum attenuata, 2·5—4 mm. longa, ecallosa. *Corolla* 1·9—2·5 cm. longa, glanduloso-pilosa, rosea, tubo subcylindrico obscure luteo, plerumque in parte superiore lineis 5 angustis purpureis longitudinaliter ornato: petalorum laminae oblique obovatae quam unguiculae angustae breviores. *Filamenta* glabra (parte connata inclusa), minora 5—7 mm., majora 8—11·5 mm. longa, minute dentata. *Ovarium* vix 1 mm. longum, ad apicem pubescens, ecallosum, loculis 1-ovulatis, stylis inferne pubescentibus, superne sparse glandulosus.

Hab. Van Rhy'n's Dorp Div.: Gift Berg, on western slopes and summit, Salter 7263 (type in Bolus Herbarium), 7294, 30 May 1938.

A close affinity of *O. porphyriosiphon*, Salter (described in Vol. II, p. 14 of this Journal), but differing in the shape of the corolla and colour of the tube. The laminae of the petals are proportionately narrower, the dull yellow tube is practically cylindrical, perceptibly longer than the laminae and the teeth on the filaments are smaller. The leaflets are also consistently narrower in this species.

Oxalis Nortieri, Salter (Oxalidaceae), § Simplicifoliae.

Planta glabra, heterophylla, ad 9 cm. alta, caule non exserto. *Bulbus* ovoideus vel subfusiformis, ad 2·5 cm. longus, tunicis atris rigidis. *Rhizoma* fere 4 cm. longum, squamis membranaceis, praecipue ad apicem indutum. *Folia* basalia, juvenilia, primo c bulbillis exorta, parva, semper trifoliolata, proxime saepe unifoliolata: in plantis maturis majora, omnino unifoliolata, petiolis compressis 2—6 cm. longis: lamina plus minusve elliptica vel obovata, basi subtruncata, crassa, 2·5—3·5 cm. longa, 1·2—1·8 cm. lata, glabra vel hirsuta, in siccio utrinque impresso-punctata, infra nervo medio conspicuo induta. *Pedunculi* uniflori, pauci, petiolis fere aequantes, supra medium bibracteati bracteis subulatis alternantibus, ad 2·5 mm. longis. *Sepala* late lanceolata,

7—8 mm. longa, pallida, minute penicillata. *Corolla* fere 1·7 cm. longa, roseo-purpurea, tubo infundibuliforme luteo: petala late subcuneata, basin versus attenuata, vix unguiculata, antice truncato-retusa, oblique acutiuscula. *Filamenta* majora 7·5 mm. longa, inferne sparse villosa,

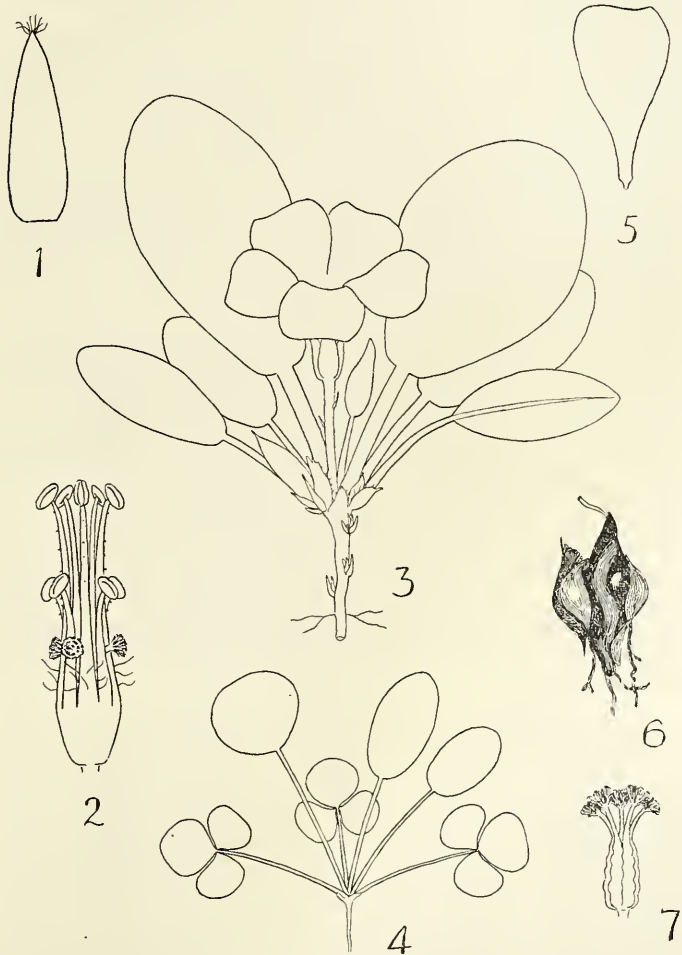


FIG. 3. *Oxalis Nortieri*, Salter. 1. Sepal $\times 4$. 2. Androecium $\times 5$. 3. Plant $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 4. Plant produced from bulbil in the first year $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 5. Petal $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 6. Bulb, natural size. 7. Gynaecium $\times 5$. (B.H. 21532). Del. T. M. Salter.

superne sparsissime glandulosa, edentata. *Ovarium* 2 mm. longum, sicut styli brevissimi glabrum, loculis 10—12-ovulatis. *Forma brevistylota solum visa.* (v.s.s., v.v.c.)

Hab. Cape Province : Willowmore, *P. L. Nortier* (Bolus Herbarium 21532, *type*) July. Oudtshoorn Div. : Little Buffels Klip, *Taylor* 450 (a form with hirsute leaves), June.

This exceptionally interesting species illustrates the process of the simplification of leaves which seems to be taking place in the genus *Oxalis*. The great majority of the South African species have trifoliolate leaves, several are multifoliolate, but only four species with simple leaves have hitherto been found.

Dr. P. F. Nortier kindly sent me dried specimens of this plant with bulbs and well formed bulbils in 1935 and in these specimens all the leaves were unifoliolate. The bulbs and bulbils were removed from the specimens and planted in a pot, but, as it was afterwards found, the mature bulbs died. The following year a number of small plants appeared with darkish green trifoliolate leaves and it was at first thought that some error had occurred in the number label in the pot (one of several hundreds in which I was then cultivating *Oxalis*). A little later on, however, the plants began to produce small simple leaves as well. (See Fig. 3, 4.)

In 1937 the plants were more robust and all the leaves were simple, but they did not flower. At the same time the new bulbils, formed in 1936, began to produce trifoliolate leaves, but the young plants were small and weak and only one of them developed a simple leaf.

As the plants, like a great many of the *Oxalis*, were not happy in a pot, they were transferred to the nursery beds at the Nat. Bot. Gardens at Kirstenbosch. On unpotting them it was found that the original bulbs sent by Dr. Nortier had died and that the 1936 plants had grown from the bulbils. In the current year one of the mature plants produced flowers in May.

***Oxalis oligophylla*, Salter (Oxalidaceae), § Oblongae.**

Planta gracilis, ferme glabra, 12—16 cm. alta. *Bulbus* plus minusve ovalis vel oblongo-ovalis, saepe deformis, 1·5—3 cm. longus, tunicis rigidis gummosis atris. *Rhizoma* 2—4 cm. longum, rare sparse squamelliferum. *Folia* 1—2, rarius 3, basalia : petioli' graciles, 6—12 cm. longi, in parte inferiore purpurascens et interdum sparsissime glandulosi : foliola 3, sessilia, anguste linearia, conduplicativa, praecipue ad apicem falcata, 4—6 cm. longa, ad 2 mm. lata. *Pedunculi* pauci, 12—15 cm. longi, apice bibracteati bracteis minutis calyceem imbricantibus. *Sepala* oblongo-lanceolata, 4—5 mm. longa, marginem versus purpurascens, saepe minute purpureo-lineata, interdum sparse pubescentia, apice minute

penicillata et callis 2 inconspicuis ornata. Corolla 1.4—1.9 cm. longa, alba, tubo infundibuliforme lutescente: petala e basi unguiculata superne obovata, indistincte purpureo-nervata. Filamenta (parte connata in-

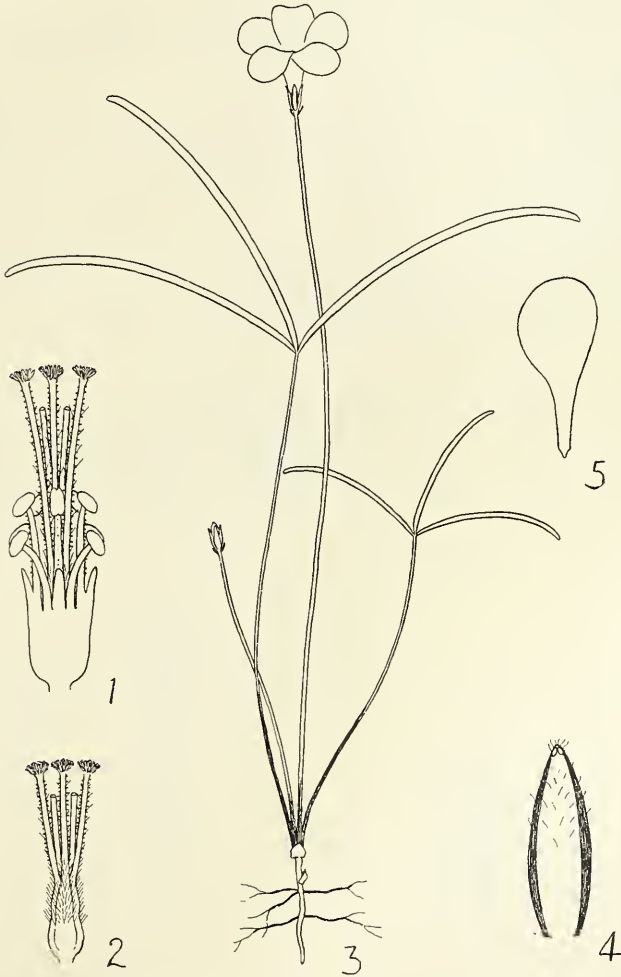


FIG. 4. *Oxalis oligophylla*, Salter. 1. Androecium $\times 8$. 2. Gynaecium $\times 8$. 3. Plant, natural size. 4. Sepal $\times 6$. 5. Petal $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. (Salter 7266). Del. T. M. Salter.

clusa) minora 2·5—3·5 mm., glabra, majora 3·5—6 mm. longa, minute glandulosa, dentibus conspicuis subacutis. *Ovarium* 1·5 mm. longum, in dimidio superiore pubescens, loculis 2—3-ovulatis: styli satis dense glandulosi, pilis simplicibus admixtis. (v.v.s.)

Hab. Cape Province: Van Rhy'n's Dorp Division, west slope of Gift Berg, near summit, about 1800 ft., 30 May 1938, Salter 7266, (*type* in Bolus Herbarium).

This very distinct species has no known affinity among the South African *Oxalis*. In general appearance it bears some superficial resemblance to the forms of *O. Smithiana*, E. and Z., with very narrow leaflets, but here the long narrow leaflets are entire, not bifurcate, and the hard black gummy bulbs, which are of no very definite shape, are entirely different.

All the plants found, though situated on a fairly open hillside, were growing up through small shrublets with only the white flowers visible, the leaves being entirely concealed and the rather shallow bulbs well protected from the sun.

***Oxalis tenuipes*, Salter (Oxalidaceae), § Lineares.**

Planta gracilis, 15—30 cm. alta, interdum caespitosa. *Bulbi* saepe congesti, anguste ovoidei, apice acute rostrati, fere 3 cm. longi, tunicis papyraceis rugosis castaneis. *Rhizoma* gracile, saepe 4—8 cm. longum, squamis paucis parvis instructum. *Caulis* gracillimus, glaber, atroviridis, nunc breviter exsertus, nunc in umbrosis ad 45 cm. longus. *Folia* plerumque 10—14, caulis apice aggregata, omnino glabra, petiolis filiformibus, 2—6 cm. longis: foliola 3, sessilia, linearia, 1·2—2 cm. longa, 1—2 mm. lata, minute emarginata, lobulis rotundatis, apice callis 2 parvis ornata. *Pedunculi* complures apicales graciles, foliis paulum superantes vel 2-plo longiores, inferne glabri, in dimidio superiore, praecipue ad apicem, glanduloso-pilosi, plerumque bibracteati bracteis minutis alternantibus linearibus, parte superiore rubro-callosis. *Sepala* lanceolata, ad apicem attenuata, 4—4·5 mm. longa, sparse glandulosa et ciliata, callis 2 parvis apicalibus rubris induta. *Corolla* 2—2·5 cm. longa, roseo-lilacea, tubo angustę infundibuliforme glanduloso luteo, in faucibus distincte purpureo-ocellata: petala e basi anguste unguiculata lamina aequante, superne plus minusve obovata, vix oblique truncata, ad marginem exteriorem glandulosa. *Filamenta* (parte connata inclusa) minora 4—6 mm. glabra, majora 6—8 mm. longa, sparse glandulosa, vix gibbosa, longissima satis inaequalia. *Ovarium* 2 mm. longum, in dimidio superiore pubescens, ecallosum, loculis 5-ovulatis, stylis inferne pubescentibus, superne glandulosi. *Capsula* oblonga, fere 5·5 mm. longa. (v.v.s.)

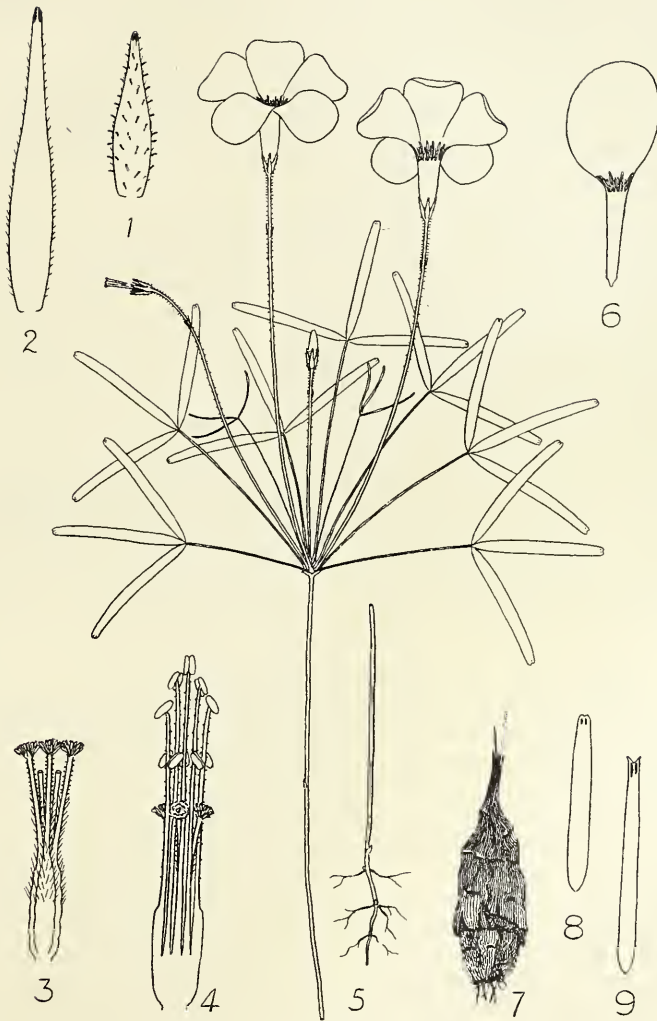


FIG. 5. *Oxalis tenuipes*, Salter. 1. Sepal $\times 6$. 2. Sepal of var. β $\times 6$. 3. Gynae-
cium $\times 6$. 4. Androecium $\times 6$. 5. Plant, natural size. 6. Petal $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 7.
Bulb, natural size. 8. Leaflet $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. 9. Leaflet of var. β $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. (Salter 7267).
Del. T. M. Salter.

Var. β . **biapiculata**. *Foliola* ad apicem attenuata, valde emarginata, lobulis minutis acutis divergentibus, basi elongate callosis. *Pedunculi* glabri. *Sepala* lineari-lanceolata, angustissime attenuata, 6—8.5 mm. longa, glabra. *Petala* plerumque angustiora.

Hab. Cape Province: Van Rhyn's Dorp Div.: Gift Berg, about 2000 ft. in rather shady places, *Salter* 7267 (*type*). Var. β . Clanwilliam Div.: Warm Baths, *F. Bolus*, Bol. Herb. 14605 (*type*), *G. Edwards* 231. Flowers June. *Types* in Bolus Herbarium.

A very distinct shade-loving species which is probably nearest to *O. phloxidiflora*, Schlechter (and *O. Malleyi*, R. Knuth, which is in my opinion synonymous.) *O. tenuipes* is, however, a larger and much more frail plant, the purple-eyed corolla being so fugitive as to wilt a few minutes after specimens are gathered. It also differs in its more elongate bulb, with softer tunics, glandular pilose peduncle, and open unfolded leaflets which do not widen towards the apex. Var. β . which is only known to me from the dried specimens quoted, differs in some important particulars, but its essential characters show that it is so closely related to the typical form that it cannot be given specific rank.

The species is very local as far as is at present known, but it must be admitted that the 80-mile range of mountains between the two localities given is almost entirely unexplored in the botanical sense. I have chosen my own collecting as the type as I have had the opportunity of observing it in the living state and making a complete examination of the floral characters.

Oxalis tenuis, Salter (Oxalidaceae), § Lineares.

Planta gracilis, 7—10 cm. alta, caule exserto, partibus herbaceis (nisi tamen foliolis) pubescentibus pilisque admixtis capitatis, plerumque pluricellularibus pilosis. *Bulbus* ovoideus, apice acutus, 1.5—2 cm. longus, tunicis exterioribus subrigidis atro-brunneis. *Rhizoma* gracile, fere 2—4 cm. longum, squamis paucis pallidis indutum. *Caulis* erectus, 4—7 cm. longus, rare ramosus, squamis vel foliis 1—2 instructus. *Folia* caulis apice aggregata, 6—10, plerumque unicum caulinum, petiolis filiformibus 0.8—1.4 cm. longis: foliola 3, sessilia, anguste linearia, conduplicativa, leviter falcata, emarginata, 1—1.5 cm. longa, 1—1.5 mm. lata, glabra vel infra sparsissime pubescentia. *Pedunculi* terminales, 1.5—2.5 cm. longi, bracteis 1—2 minutis, vel ebracteati. *Sepala* lanceolata, 2.5—3 mm. longa, ciliata, ad apicem nigrescentia, ecallosa. *Corolla* 1.4—1.7 cm. longa, glandulosa, alba, tubo satis late infundibuliforme sordide luteo: petala subcuneata, inferne leviter attenuata, superne rotundata, 6—8 mm. lata. *Filamenta* (parte connata inclusa) minora 2—3 mm., glabra, majora 3—5.5 mm. longa, glandulosa, dentibus

obtusis fere 0·4 mm. longis. *Ovarium* vix 1 mm. longum, in dimidio superiore pubescens, loculis 1-ovulatis, stylis inferne pubescentibus, superne glandulosis.

Hab. Cape Province : Van Rhyn's Dorp Div. ; Western slope of Gift Berg, *Salter* 7260 (*type* in Bolus Herbarium).

This species appears to be an affinity of *O. tenella*, Jacq., but the stem is more rigid and the leaflets narrower. It also differs in having an ecallose ovary in which the chambers are only 1-seeded, and which does not elongate beyond the calyx in the fruiting stage. The hairs on the upper part of the styles are gland-tipped, but not pluricellular as in *O. tenella*.

Only one small colony was observed and this in a position partially shaded by bushes.

Lessertia miniata, Salter, Leguminosae (Papilionaceae), § Galegeae)

Herba perennis diffusa, partibus herbaceis (nisi tamen legumina. sparse strigosis. *Caules* saepe numerosi, laxi, procumbentes ad 1 m longi, sparse ramosi, internodis satis longis. *Folia* 4—8 cm. longa, petiolis ad 8 mm. longis, 8—11-jugis : foliola breviter petiolulata, linearia vel oblonga, acuta, 1—2 cm. longa, apice brevissime apiculata, supra glabra, subtus sparse strigosa. *Stipulae* oblique ovato-lanceolatae, fere 4 mm. longae, ciliatae. *Pedunculi* axillares, 8—12 cm. longi, apicem versus 6—9-flori, racemo sublaxo, floribus adscendentibus : bractae ovatae, ad 2 mm. longae : pedicelli 3—5 mm. longi. *Calyx* 5—6 mm. longus, segmentis anguste ovato-deltaideis, fere 2 mm. longis, intus strigosis. *Petala* miniata (in sicco purpurea) : vexillum fere 1·2 cm. longum, distincte unguiculatum, lamina suborbiculata, apice emarginata vel retusa : alae oblongae, fere 1·1 cm. longae, lobo posteriore obtuso, unguis valde obliqua : carina alis aequilonga, lobis obtusis, unguis laminae dimidio aequante. *Ovarium* sparsissime strigosum vel glabrum, pluriovulatum, stylo superne minute barbato. *Legumen* inflatum, elliptico-oblongum, aequilaterale, transverse nervatum, glabrescens, 2—2·8 cm. longum, 0·8—1 cm. latum. (v.v.s.)

Hab. Cape Province : Cape Peninsula, near Slangkop, *Salter* 7104 (*type* in Bolus Herbarium) ; near Cape of Good Hope, *Salter* 7109 ; South slope of Chapman's Peak, *Salter* 7083 ; between Buffels Bay and Cape Point, *L. Bolus* Bol. Herb. 22207 ; also in Kew Herbarium without exact locality, *Mundt* 58 (Hort. Kew.) ; *P.b.sp.*, *Mundt and Marie* ; *P.b.sp.*, *Grey* ; *C.B.S.*, *Bowie*. Flowers November.

A lax plant with numerous long weak procumbent stems emerging from a common rootstock. It is an affinity of *L. physodes*, Eck. and Zey. which is however an erect shrubby species, the obovate vexillum having no ap-

preciable claw. *L. miniata* also differs in its laxer raceme, narrower and more numerous leaflets, more symmetrical legume, larger flowers and differently shaped vexillum. No record appears to have been kept of the colour of the flowers in *L. physodes*.

I am indebted to Professor R. S. Adamson, of Cape Town University, for kindly comparing my plant with the four undetermined specimens in Kew Herbarium quoted above and he informs me that they are identical with it.

No locality records have been left by the old collectors and it cannot therefore be certain that this species is confined to the Cape Peninsula, where it is only known in the southern part. Though not a purely maritime species, it does not appear to occur at altitudes of over 300 ft., and never far from the sea. By no means uncommon, it has probably been overlooked by modern collectors owing to the superficial resemblance of the brick red flowers to those of *Indigofera candidans*, Ait.

***Pelargonium Pillansii*, Salter (Geraniaceae), § Polyactium.**

Herba perennis. *Tuber* pastinaciforme, lignosum, ad 16 cm. longum. *Caulis perennis* brevis, nunc omnino subterraneus, nunc breviter exsertus. *Folia radicalia* 3—6, e caule perenne exorientia, late divergentia, prorsus proterantha, glauca, glabra, petiolis 5—12 cm. longis : lamina in ambitu ovato-deltaidea, 4—11 cm. longa, 4—8 cm. lata, palmate tripartita vel profundissime trilobulata : lobi saepe ad rachim bipinnatipartiti, segmentis cuneato-oblongis, profunde laciniatis dentatisque, ultimis acutis rubro-mucronatis : stipulae parvae semiadnatae.

Caulis annuus erectus, teres, 6—13 cm. longus, basi ad 4 mm. latus, infra internodos leviter turgidus, ramis paucis suberectis, sicut partes omnes herbaceae (nisi tamen folia radicalia) dense glanduloso-puberulus, *Folia caulina* pauca, alternantia, leviter canaliculata, glauca, 2·5—3·5 cm. longa, ad 1·3 cm. lata, profunde pinnatifida, lobis obcuneatis acutis, saepe 1- vel 2-dentatis, rubro-mucronatis : petioli anguste cuneati : stipulae brevissime adnatae, lanceolatae vel obcuneatae, ad 7 mm. longae, rubro-dentatae. *Pedunculi* axillares, 12—16 cm. longi, bractae ovatae, acuminatae, 5—6 mm. longae : pedicelli 10—16, ad 5·5 cm. longi, tubo nectarifero prope ad basin extenso. *Calyx* fere 1 cm. longa, segmentis

FIG. 6. *Pelargonium Pillansii*, Salter. 1. Tuber with the perennial stem and a portion of the annual stem attached $\times \frac{1}{2}$. 2. Annual stem and inflorescences $\times \frac{1}{2}$. 3. Flower, front view $\times 2$. 4. Flower with petals removed, side view $\times 2$. 5 & 9. Lower calyx segments, outer view $\times 2$. 6 & 8. Lateral calyx segments, outer view $\times 2$. 7. Upper calyx segment, outer view $\times 2$. 10. Lower petal $\times 2$. 11. Upper petal $\times 2$. 12. Androecium, from within $\times 5$. 13. Upper portion of androecium, from outside $\times 5$. 14. Gynaecium $\times 2$. 15. Radical leaf $\times \frac{1}{2}$. (Salter 6453). Del. W. F. Barker.

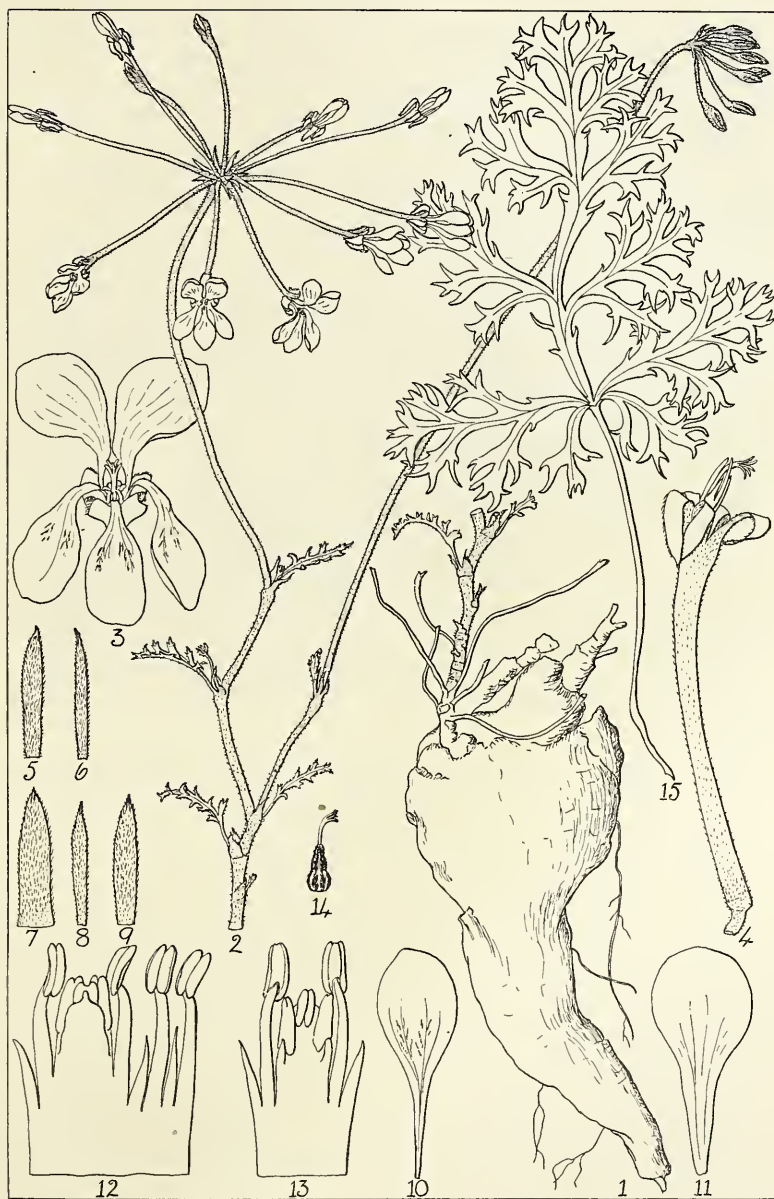


FIG. 6.

oblongis acutis rubro-mucronatis, interdum reflexis. *Petala* 5, subaequalia, 1·3—1·4 cm. longa, inferiora spathulata, superiora latiora, subcuneata, pallide sordideque luteola, inferiora indistincte purpureo-ornata. *Stamina* 7, staminodia 3 : antherae oblongae, polline flavo. *Ovarium* dense albo-sericeum. (v.v.s., v.v.c.)

Hab. Cape Province : Cape Peninsula ; Lion's Mountain, *Salter* 6453 (*type* in Bolus Herbarium), 6574, *Pillans* 4172, 8527, *Levy* 6413 : Bellville Div. : Tygerberg, *Salter* 7189 (in leaf).

P. Pillansii differs from other species in the section *Polyactium* in having glaucous leaves and in the remarkably long interval between the production of the radical leaves and the flowering stem. The comparatively large radical leaves appear from May to October and are entirely glabrous, dying away completely before the production of the flowering stem which emerges about March and usually flowers in April. With the exception of the radical leaves, the stem and all the herbaceous parts are glandular-puberulous and, owing to the dry season in which they appear, the cauline leaves seem to be often poorly developed and quickly shrivel. As is the case with *P. triste*, Ait., the radical leaves of the younger plants are much less deeply lacinate than those of the mature plants.

Though not common, it occurs in several places on Lion's Mountain and the Tygerberg Hills, and it is curious that it should have escaped notice until Mr. N. S. Pillans obtained a tuber and cultivated it in 1920. The dull creamy-yellow flowers are, however, not very conspicuous and it appears to flower but rarely. A plant which appears to be this species has recently been found on the summit of the Gift Berg in Van Rhy'n's Dorp Division.